

In re Appl. No. 69/986, 336
Confirmation No. 5199

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, applicant reserving the right to present nonelected claims in a divisional application.

Claims 21-34 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of March 13, 2003, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Election/Restriction

Applicant hereby affirms election of claims 1-10.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 7 are objected to because of informalities.

The present amendment cancels claims 5 and 7. It is believed that the newly submitted claims do not contain these informalities.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject

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matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner alleges that the phrase "or the like" renders the claim indefinite, and the "adapted to" limitations are unclear.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been replaced by new claim 21, which new claim does not contain these indefinite expressions.

Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hayes.

The present amendment cancels claims 1, 2, 4 and 5. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayes.

The present amendment cancels claims 3 and 7. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

Claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayes as applied to claims 1 and 7 above and further in view of Hoey.

The present amendment cancels claims 6 and 8. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all

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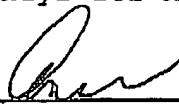
of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claims 9 and 10 have been rewritten as claims 21 and 28 respectively. All of the other new claims in this application depend from claim 21 or claim 28. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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